

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-11 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 AID-05 OMB-01

PC-01 /077 W

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O P 291305Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY FREETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2558

INFO AMEMBASSY MONROVIA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY LAGOS PRIORITY

USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 271

C O N F I D E N T I A L FREETOWN 0282

LONDON FOR SEITZ

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR AO SL

SUBJECT: SIERRA LEONE RECOGNITION OF MPLA

REF: FREETOWN 0280

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. IN FIRST PRESS CONFERENCE FOR
16 MONTHS AND ONE TO WHICH ENTIRE DIPLOMATIC CORPS
INVITED, PRESIDENT STEVENS ANNOUNCED GOSL HAD RECOGNIZED
MPLA GOVERNMENT IN ANGOLA AS OF JANUARY 28, 1976. IN
PREPARED REMARKS ANNOUNCING DECISION, STEVENS REVIEWED
GOSL SUPPORT FOR PREVIOUS OAU RECOGNITION OF THREE
ANGOLAN MOVEMENTS AND HOPE THAT OAU WOULD HAVE BEEN
ABLE TO RESOLVE SITUATION IN RECENT HEADS OF STATE
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MEETING. CALLING THAT MEETING "ABORTIVE", STEVENS

REPEATED GOSL DISAPPOINTMENT AT RESULTS OF MEETING.
AFTER SERIOUS CONSIDERATION, GOSL, OBSERVING THE CONTINUED
KILLING OF ANGOLANS AND THE CONTINUED RECRUITMENT OF
"MERCENARIES", NOW FELT THAT RECOGNITION OF MPLA
WAS THE ONLY WAY TO BRING PEACE TO ANGOLA.

2. PRESIDENT STEVENS WENT ON TO SAY THAT GOSL HOPED
THAT MPLA GOVERNMENT COULD NOW JOIN OAU. WHEN THIS HAPPENS,
OAU WOULD THEN BE IN POSITION TO EXERT HELPFUL INFLUENCE
IN ANGOLA IN A WAY THAT IT COULD NOT DO LACKING SUCH
RECOGNITION. OAU COULD THEN CALL, JUST AS GOSL NOW DOING,
FOR MODERATION BY MPLA LEADERS IN THEIR BEHAVIOR TOWARD
THE LEADERS OF THE OTHER MOVEMENTS AND FOR RECONCILIATION
IN "TRADITIONAL AFRICAN MANNER." END UNCLASSIFIED

3. BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL. COMMENT: RECENT DIPLOMATIC
ACTIVITY BY BUINEA, NIGERIA, AND TANZANIA HAD LED LOCAL
OBSERVERS TO EXPECT ABOVE CHANGE IN GOSL POLICY, LACKING
ANY COUNTER-PRESSURE FROM COUNTRIES ON THE OTHER SIDE.
NEVERTHELESS TIMING APPEARS ABRUPT, ESPECIALLY
GIVEN ASSURANCE PROVIDED AMBASSADOR YESTERDAY BY PRIME
MINISTER KAMAR-TAYLOR THAT GOSL WOULD NOT CHANGE ITS
POSITION WITHOUT CONSULTING LIBERIA, ZAMBIA AND SENEGAL,
WITH WHOM GOSL HAD PREVIOUSLY SHARED POSITION OF SUPPORT
FOR COALITION. THERE ARE NO INDICATIONS HERE THAT ANY
SUCH CONSULTATION TOOK PLACE. NOTICEABLY GLUM FACES OF
OTHER HIGH-LEVEL GOSL OFFICIALS PRESENT AT PRESS CONFERENCE,
SOME OF WHOM HAD SPECIFICALLY STATED CONTINUED SUPPORT
FOR COALITION, AS WELL AS REPORT THAT WHEN CONSULTED
LAST WEEK MILITARY LEADERS ALSO EXPRESSED CONTINUED
SUPPORT FOR COALITION, SUGGEST THAT DECISION PROBABLY
MADE BY PRESIDENT STEVENS ALONE. IT UNCLEAR WHO
PROVIDED CONVOLUTED LOGIC EXPRESSED PARA 2 ABOVE.
REASONS FOR GOSL DECISION AND TIMING REMAIN UNCLEAR.
END COMMENT. END CONFIDENTIAL.

4. DEPARTMENT REPEAT OTHER POSTS AS DESIRED.
SAMUELS

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